

# Lafayette Historical Society

P.O. Box 133

Lafayette, California 94549

Bulletin, Vol. XII, No. 2  
President: Richard Johnson

April 1986  
Newsletter Editor, Nancy Midwood

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

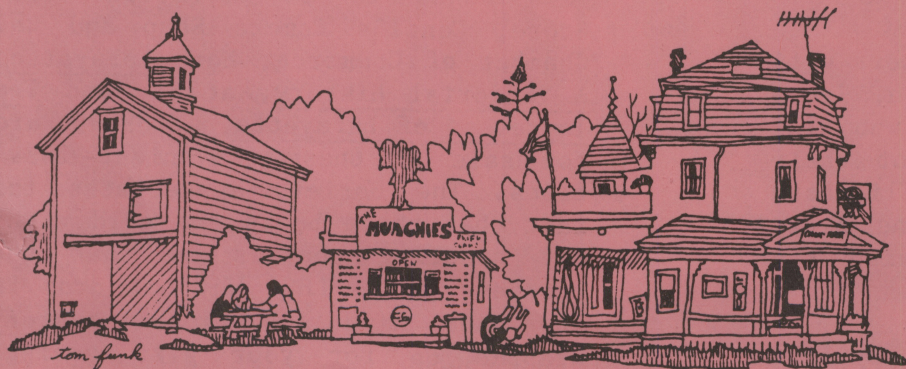
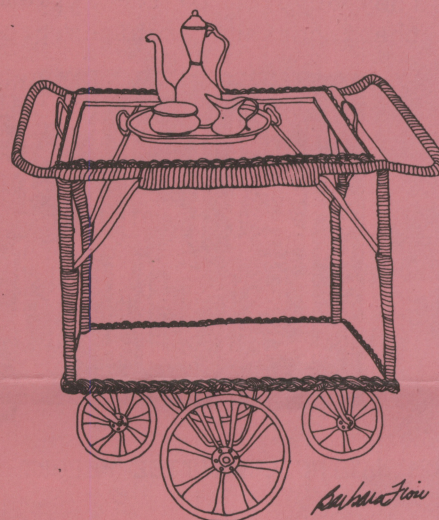
With the production of "Hiss and Hearse," George Wasson and Jack Peterson's Toneslotters, Charlie Berger's wonderful lyrics and book for the melodramas, Betsey Young's choreography, Evelyn McLean's brilliant improvisations at the piano and her director abilities, Jeri Burnsides grab bag of talents, Laff-Frantics went the way of the Strawhatters, the Burton Parkway, the Del Valle High School, the Lafayette Dime and Dollar . . . and now are only memories for those lucky enough to have seen them over the years.

Because the Lafayette Historical Society keeps archives of news articles and photos, the memories have been documented and records are available. All the work of the LHS is done by volunteers. The ranks of volunteers are thinning. "If it's to be, it's up to me" has been my motto this last year. I am passing that message on with the job of President.

If you want things to be happening, you will have to help them happen. LHS is 90% spectator sport but 10% work. If you haven't put in your 10%, we want to hear from you.

My year as President has been marked by successful field trips. My thanks to the active Board Members who helped with society affairs this year.

Are we going the way of Laff-Frantics? Do you want to keep LHS alive? Be alive.



*Richard Johnson*

Richard Johnson



THANKS

CAPITAL FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN!

A special thanks to Laura Shaw,

A special thanks to Laura Shaw, Lafayette Branch Manager, and Capital Federal Savings and Loan for the use of their duplicating machine to make copies of the hundreds of Lafayette Historical Society photographs which are kept in the Lafayette Library. We are most grateful. The Society also thanks Joan Merryman and Betsy Willcuts for the many hours of time they devoted to the implementation of the important archives project.



le-Tan

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The terms of three of the Directors expire this year. Those Directors are: Richard Johnson, Sandy Kimball and Belinda Quintana. The Society thanks them for sharing their enthusiasm and capabilities so effectively during their terms.

The Nominating Committee, under the chairmanship of Angela Broadhead, will submit three nominations for a three year term to fill these vacancies at the Annual Meeting.

The newly elected Directors will join Ray Peter, Oliver Hamlin, Irene Van Overveen and Ruth Dyer, who will be serving the third year of their terms; and James Craig, Elizabeth Johnston, Shirley Thomson and Betsy Willcuts, who will be serving the second year of their terms.

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Society, the Board is to elect from its members the officers for the new year.



THE WAY WE WORE -- 1850 - 1950

THE FRIENDS of the LAFAYETTE LIBRARY'S ANNUAL SPRING MEETING will feature a vintage fashion show of authentic women's clothing styles, from pioneer - victorian - flapper - to the Fifties! Eight models will show bridal . . . evening . . . social . . . everyday attire, from undressed to best dressed! So come enjoy it all at our annual May meeting on:

SATURDAY, MAY 17

10am - 12 noon

AT THE LAFAYETTE LIBRARY

952 Moraga Road



#### LHS BOOK SALES

Thanks to the Lafayette Book Store, Conti's Camera Shop and the Chamber of Commerce, both LaFayette: A Pictorial History, at \$6, and The Improvers of Lafayette, at \$9.95, are for sale at these convenient locations. The Society appreciates the fact that these books are sold without handling charges so that the proceeds go to LHS. Why not drop in soon and have some local history wrapped up for your gift giving? According to Ruth Dyer, sales have provided nearly \$220 in income so far this year.





ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK  
6:00 P.M. Tuesday, May 13, 1986

The Society's Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13. As in prior years, it will be held at the Veteran's Building on the lower floor.

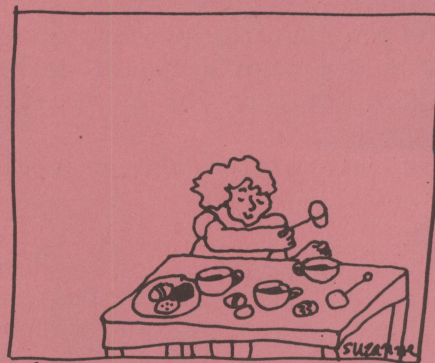
A no-host bar will be open from 6 to 7 P.M. Then we'll have a pot-luck dinner hosted by a group of volunteers. Following the meal we'll take a few minutes to elect three Directors to replace those whose terms expire this year, and to determine the winner of the raffle. Then it will be time for the program, arranged by Elizabeth Johnston, Chairman. Our visitor will be noted author and publisher, Malcolm Margolin.

Mr. Margolin is founder and publisher of Heyday Books in Berkeley. Mr. Margolin is the author of a number of books, with The Ohlone Way his best known. His East Bay Out: A Guide to Hiking, Fishing, Camping and Bicycling in the East Bay Regional Parks has sold over 25,000 copies since it came out in 1974. Heyday Books has specialized in books on Native American and natural history, but diversifies to publish other quality works.

Malcolm Margolin will take us back two hundred years to a time when the climate, ecology and Indian cultures were vastly different from the suburban life of freeways and homes we know today.

What was it like never to see a stranger in your lifetime? Your questions are encouraged. We look forward to an informal talk with Malcolm Margolin about our area's early beginnings.

Please join us for this popular event -- guests are welcome. Bring your friends to acquaint them with LHS. Just bring along a casserole or salad to serve 8. Board members and committee chairmen will bring the desserts. Complimentary wine and coffee are provided. We look forward to the pleasure of your company.



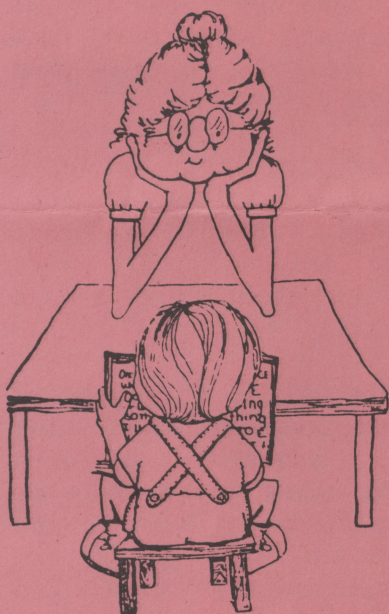


## LAFAYETTE FOURTH GRADERS TAKE HISTORIC WALKING TOURS OF LAFAYETTE

Eight classes of Lafayette fourth graders will be given tours of historic Lafayette and of the Lafayette Cemetery in April and May by Lafayette Historical Society members. A special thanks to Pat Gowdy of the Lafayette School Board who has coordinated the program, Christine Schreiber who will conduct tours of the Cemetery, and Ruth Dyer, Martha Raymond and Mary Lou Van Galder who will lead the tours of downtown Lafayette.



## GALLAND AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHING IN CALIFORNIA HISTORY



The story of California's past as told through the activities and contributions of its men, women and children is a great challenge to any teacher. To encourage and reward teachers who take on the task of telling this story in all of its diversity, the California Historical Society has established the Galland Award for innovative teaching in California History. This award is meant to encourage the development of innovative projects in California history at the elementary and secondary levels. The Galland Award will annually give \$500 to one classroom teacher from Northern and \$500 to one classroom teacher from Southern California to develop for use in the classroom an exemplary project, activity or lesson plan on California History. In addition, recipients receive one year membership in the Society and announcement of the project in The Courier.

In 1986, the California Historical Society invites applications from elementary teachers; in 1987, the Society will invite applications from secondary teachers.

The application process involves completion of an application form, submission of a one page proposal describing the project and one letter of recommendation. The deadline for application is June 30, 1986.

For information and an application form, interested teachers should write to:

Education Department  
The California Historical Society  
2090 Jackson Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109



## BOOKS

### THE SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE

1986 marks the 80th anniversary of the great earthquake and fire. This fascinating 30-page booklet, excerpted from the Spring 1980 issues of California History, is a first-hand glimpse - in the form of photographs, letters and other manuscripts from the CHS collections - of the desperation and exhilaration of San Francisco in 1906. A marvelous compilation of original sources. Ideal for grandchildren, students or anyone who wants to know what it was like at 5:15 a.m. on April 18, 1906 when "the San Andreas Fault shifted and all hell broke loose." 30 pages, 8-1/2" x 10", 33 photographs, paperback, \$2.95 members, \$3.50 non-members. (CHS Books).

### THE WESTERN SHORE

By Clarkson Crane

First published in 1925, this remarkable novel set on Berkeley in 1919 tells the story of the "lost generation" at home in the west. The book evokes the color and scene of the San Francisco Bay Area in the years immediately following World War I - ferries across the bay, the train through Mill Valley and up Mt. Tamalpais, Market Street with its trolleys. Carey McWilliams, who long advocated its republishing, described The Western Shore as one of the three or four most important works of fiction based on the California scene. paperback. 303 pp., \$9.95 CHS Members, \$10.95 non-members.



## ARCHIVES

The Society's collection of historical pictures is available for reproduction at a per picture cost of \$5 to businesses, \$1 to individuals. Items from the Society's collection at the Lafayette Library may be checked out by researchers with the written permission of one of the following archivists: Ray Peters, Joan Merryman, Betsy Willcuts or Sandy Kimball.



### MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Chair Dick Johnson reports membership is now over 170. The Society needs 200 members in order to qualify for a non-profit mailing status. The annual potluck is a great way for us to introduce a friend to the Society's program, purpose and people. So, bring a guest and help us to GROW!

### OAKLAND MUSEUM SEEKS DOCENTS

The Oakland Museum Docent Council is conducting interviews for docent courses in history, natural sciences and art to begin in the fall.

If you are interested, please call the Docent Council between the hours of 8:30 and 4:00 Monday through Friday; or you may reach Betsy Willcuts, upcoming Docent council President, at 283-0706.





PACIFIC HEIGHTS MAY 10 TOUR  
"GARDENS AS REFLECTIONS OF  
PERSONALITY AND PLACE"

Believing that gardens should reflect the character of their owners, as well as the place in which they grow, landscape architect Thomas D. Church spent a lifetime planting and seeding. Saturday, May 10, CHS will sponsor an exclusive tour of five private gardens in San Francisco's Pacific Heights.

Featured in the tour will be a house designed by architect Gardner Dailey, known for Hertz and Tolman Halls on the U.C. Berkeley campus. This house is surrounded by a garden designed by Church. Also included in the tour will be a house and garden designed by San Francisco architect Warren Perry.

Cosponsored by CHS's Adult Education Department and the Northern California Activities Council, the tour begins at the Whittier Mansion, CHS San Francisco Headquarters, where participants can pick up their tour maps. Participants will be encouraged to tour the gardens at their own pace. Refreshments will be served throughout the day. Tickets: \$10 CHS Member, \$13 General.

For more information, call the Adult Education and Travel Department: (415) 567-1848.

"TO KEEP SOMEBODY WARM"  
EXHIBIT AT RICHMOND MUSEUM

"To Keep Somebody Warm," an exhibit of 50 years of quilting in Richmond, will be on display from April 5 to June 22. Personal histories of twelve quiltmakers will be explored, illustrating their varied lives and documenting their quilting history. The museum is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 1 to 4 P.M. at 400 Nevin Avenue. Phone: 235-7387.



OAKLAND WALKING TOUR - MAY 31

In the last few years, extensive efforts to renovate Oakland's business district have resulted in several important projects, including Victorian Row and Preservation Park. The California Historical Society, in conjunction with the Oakland Heritage Alliance, examines some of these projects in a walking tour of downtown Oakland. Also included will be a guided tour of the Paramount Theater. Tickets: \$13.00 CHS Members, \$18.00 General.



IT'S TIME FOR DUES  
Please complete . Tear off . Mail with dues

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (spouse) (last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

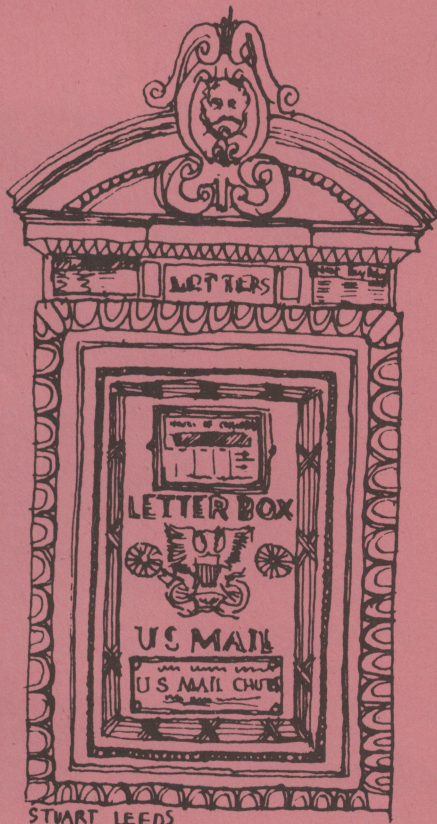
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

|                                                            |                   |               |                  |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Membership classification<br>and annual dues (circle one): | Student<br>\$2.50 | Family<br>\$5 | Business<br>\$50 | Life<br>\$100 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|

SPECIAL INTERESTS  
Please check if you can help.

\_\_\_\_\_ Historic preservation  
\_\_\_\_\_ Landmarks  
\_\_\_\_\_ Community observer  
\_\_\_\_\_ Oral history  
\_\_\_\_\_ Typing

\_\_\_\_\_ Field trips  
\_\_\_\_\_ Photographs  
\_\_\_\_\_ Research  
\_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper clippings  
\_\_\_\_\_ Phoning  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (describe)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Name, address and phone number of  
friends interested in joining:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 133  
Lafayette, CA 94549



First Class Mail

Lafayette Historical Society  
P. O. Box 133  
Lafayette, CA 94549



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 13 . Veterans Hall . LHS Dinner and Annual Meeting